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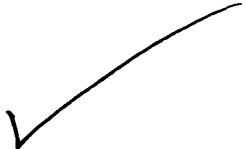

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Restriction has been required between a first group of claims that includes claims 1-23, and a second group of claims that includes claims 24-33. Applicants hereby elect claims 1-23 (Group I) for further prosecution on the merits at this time, without traverse.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Date: January 9, 2004



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